

CULTURE

SUSTINENCE ACTIVITIES

241 **Farming.**—The main *Tucuna* crops are bitter manioc, sweet manioc (macaxera), cara (*Dioscorea*), and maize. The last is planted with some ceremony. There are also at least three species of edible tubers which are not used by civilized people.

226 **Fishing and hunting.**—Fish, of great importance to the *Tucuna*, are
227 taken with four- to nine-pronged javelins, arrows, harpoon arrows, baskets, weirs, traps, and a drug made of timbó. The Indians fish almost daily from childhood. On the Solimões, they are expert fishers of pirarucú, an important article of commerce.

224 Hunting today is unimportant, since game has been depleted to fill
177 the demand for hides. The *Tucuna* now use firearms, but formerly
411 employed the bow and arrow, spear, and blowgun. They also use pitfalls and several types of snares and traps. The blowgun, once the principal weapon, is disappearing.

222 **Gathering.**—The wild burity, bacaba, pataúá, and açahy palms are of
262 great economic value. Some *Tucuna* plant Brazil nut trees near their
[245] houses. They eat certain frogs, Coleoptera larvae, and female red ants at hiving time. They like wild honey but keep no bees.

231 **Domesticated animals.**—The *Tucuna* raise a few chickens, but do not want hogs or other domestic animals because they dirty the premises. They keep young wild mammals and birds uncaged.

412 **Food preparation.**—Instead of a mortar, the *Tucuna* use a trough
252 with a half-moon-shaped rocker of thick and heavy wood.

[177] The making of manioc flour, introduced by the Neo-Brazilians, became
[434] one of the principal sources of income among the *Tucuna*.

HOUSES

342 The old houses had a small rectangular central portion with a short ridge pole mounted on props. Each end was semicircular, so that the ground plan was oval or nearly round. The walls were of a man's height, and were made of boards of paxiuba or of straw. The house could be sealed tight against mosquitoes. Families occupied the lateral corridors, the central space being reserved for ceremonies. All houses were spacious and well built.

177 The introduction of mosquito nets made house walls unnecessary.
342 People slept on bunks along the walls, covered with mosquito nets, instead of in hammocks. Many houses were built without the semicircular
352 extremities but with a longer central part, being like an open rectangular
513 ranch house with a ridge pole. When the tribe occupied the flood plains of the shores and islands, they built houses on piles.